



Justices seem set to allow emergency abortions in Idaho for now, a prematurely posted opinion says

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court appears poised to allow emergency abortions in Idaho when a pregnant patient's health is at serious risk, according to a copy of the opinion briefly posted on the court's website Wednesday and obtained by Bloomberg News.

The document suggests the court will find that it should not have gotten involved in the case over Idaho's strict abortion ban so quickly. By a 6-3 vote it would reinstate a lower court order that had allowed hospitals in the state to perform emergency abortions to protect a pregnant patient's health. Such an outcome would leave the issues at the heart of the case unresolved. It would also mean key questions remain unanswered, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson wrote in a concurrence.

"Today's decision is not a victory for pregnant patients in Idaho. It is delay," she wrote.



Anti-abortion demonstrators protest outside the Supreme Court, Wednesday, June 26, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

The Supreme Court acknowledged that its publications unit inadvertently posted a document

Wednesday. An opinion in the Idaho case would be issued "in due course," court spokeswoman Patricia Mc-

Cabe said in a statement. Conservative Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch are

listed as dissenting from the decision.

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Justices seem set to allow emergency abortions in Idaho for now, a prematurely posted opinion says

Continued from Front

The finding may not be the court's final ruling because the justices' decision has not been officially released. The decision would mean the case would continue at the 9th U.S. Circuit Court, and could end up back before the justices.

The Supreme Court may be reluctant to make an abortion-related decision on the merits – rather than procedural grounds – in an election year, said Greer Donley, a reproductive law scholar and professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that about 7 in 10 U.S. adults favor protecting access to abortions for patients who are experiencing miscarriages or other pregnancy-related emergencies.

The decision would reverse the Supreme Court's earlier order that allowed an Idaho abortion ban to temporarily go into effect, even in medical emergencies. Several women have since needed medical airlifts out of state in cases in which abortion is routine treatment to avoid infection, hemorrhage and other dire health risks, Idaho doctors have said.

The nation's top health official, Xavier Becerra, held a scheduled meeting with Idaho doctors and patients to discuss the state's strict abortion ban in Boise Wednesday. Sarah Thompson, an Idaho OB/GYN, said that if a woman's water breaks early in pregnancy, when the fetus has no chance of survival, she is unable to treat the patient by delivering the baby early. "While there's nothing we can do to save her baby, there is something we can do to preserve her health and her future fertility," Thompson said.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists said that it hoped the court "listened to the scientific evidence and medical experts and will ultimately affirm the availability of emergency abortion care



Left to right: Dr. Sara Thompson, an OBGYN provider in Idaho, Jillaine St. Michel, a patient who had to travel out of state to access abortive services, U.S. Health Secretary Xavier Becerra, Lauren McLean, Mayor, City of Boise, Dr. Julie Lyons, LY- UHNZ, St Luke's, Blaine County women's health initiative and Family Physician and Dr. Loren Colson, Cofounder, Idaho Coalition for Safe Healthcare participate in a conversation with local patients and providers who have been impacted by Idaho's abortion restrictions held at the Linen Building in Boise, Idaho, Wednesday, June 26, 2024.

for people in every state," said general counsel Molly Meegan.

The case started when the Biden administration sued Idaho, arguing that its abortion ban conflicted with federal healthcare law because doctors wouldn't be allowed to provide abortions to stabilize pregnant patients in rare emergency cases when their health is at serious risk.

Idaho argued its ban does allow abortions to save a pregnant patient's life and that federal law does not require the exceptions to expand. The state attorney general's office declined to comment Wednesday.

Katie Daniel, the state policy director of Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, said an Idaho state court had ruled that women's lives don't need to be in immediate danger to act.

Most Republican-controlled states began enforcing restrictions after the justices overturned Roe v. Wade two years ago, and Idaho is among 14 states that out-

law abortion at all stages of pregnancy with very limited exceptions.

The case is likely to return to the Supreme Court again, said Rachel Rebouche, dean of the Temple University Beasley School of Law and a reproductive law scholar. The New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled in a similar case that the federal law does not take precedence over an abortion ban in Texas.

So while the Supreme Court's ruling would allow abortion in medical emergencies in Idaho, at least for now, Rebouche said, "Nearly 38 million people live in the 5th Circuit. That's a lot of people whose lives aren't changed at all by this."

Alexis McGill Johnson, president and CEO of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said that a decision without explicit guarantees that patients could get abortions in medical emergencies would be "catastrophic." Reports of pregnant women

being turned away from U.S. emergency rooms spiked after the Supreme Court's 2022 ruling overturning the constitutional right to abortion, according to federal documents obtained by The Associated Press.

If the high court were to rule in Idaho's favor, it would create a "world in which women would have to lose their reproductive organs," said Sara Rosenbaum, a George Washington University health law and policy professor who is an expert on the federal EMTALA law.

The Justice Department's lawsuit came under a federal law that requires hospitals accepting Medicare to provide stabilizing care regardless of a patient's ability to pay. The law is the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act, or EMTALA. Nearly all hospitals accept Medicare, so emergency room doctors in Idaho and other states with bans would have to provide abortions if needed to stabilize a pregnant patient and avoid serious health risks such as the

Associated Press

loss of reproductive organs, the Justice Department argued. Idaho argued that its exception for a patient's life covers dire health circumstances and that the Biden administration misread the law to circumvent the state ban and expand abortion access.

Carol Tobias, president of the National Right to Life Committee, said his group was glad the Justice Department says its arguments apply to rare cases.

Doctors have said Idaho's law has made them fearful to perform abortions, even when a pregnancy is putting a patient's health severely at risk. The law requires anyone who is convicted of performing an abortion to be imprisoned for at least two years.

A federal judge initially sided with the Democratic administration and ruled that abortions were legal in medical emergencies. After the state appealed, the Supreme Court allowed the law to go fully into effect in January. □

Biden pardons potentially thousands of ex-service members convicted under now-repealed gay sex ban

By ZEKE MILLER
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden pardoned potentially thousands of former U.S. service members convicted of violating a now-repealed military ban on consensual gay sex, saying Wednesday that he is "righting an historic wrong" to clear the way for them to regain lost benefits.

Biden's action grants a pardon to service members who were convicted under the Uniform Code of Military Justice's former Article 125, which criminalized sodomy. The law, which has been on the books since 1951, was rewritten in 2013 to prohibit only forcible acts.

Those covered by the pardon will be able to apply to receive proof that their conviction has been erased, petition to have their discharges from the military upgraded and move to recover lost pay and benefits. "Today, I am righting an historic wrong by using my clemency authority to pardon many former service members who were convicted simply for being themselves," Biden said in a statement. "We have a sacred obligation to all of



President Joe Biden speaks in the East Room at the White House in Washington, June 4, 2024.

Associated Press

our service members including our brave LGBTQ+ service members: to properly prepare and equip them when they are sent into harm's way, and to care for them and their families when they return home. Today we are making progress in that pursuit." The president's use of his pardon powers is occurring during Pride Month and his action comes just days before he

is set to hold a high-profile fundraiser with LGBTQ donors in New York on Friday. Biden is trying to rally support within the Democratic-leaning community ahead of the presidential election. Modern Military, the nation's largest organization of LGBTQ+ service members and their families, said the decision was "historic step towards justice and equality," and called on

the military to approve the pardons quickly. Biden's proclamation is "a significant move in recognizing and righting the wrongs inflicted upon LGBTQ+ service members who faced discrimination and unjust convictions under policies such as 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" the organization said in a statement after the pardon announcement. "These brave individuals stood

on the front lines of freedom, risking their lives to defend our country, only to be met with injustice at home."

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said in a statement that the actions were a step in the "march towards greater equality" and "correct a historic wrong for LGBTQ+ Americans who served bravely in our armed forces to keep our country safe."

Administration officials declined to say why Biden did not act on the pardons sooner. This is the third categorial pardon by Biden using his clemency powers to cover a broad group of people convicted of particular crimes after moves in 2022 and 2023 to pardon those convicted federally for possessing marijuana. □

The White House estimates that several thousand service members will be covered—the majority convicted before the military instituted the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in 1993 that eased the way for LGBTQ troops to serve if they didn't disclose their sexual orientation. That policy was repealed in 2011, when Congress allowed for their open service in the military. □

Border arrests fall more than 40% after Biden's halt to asylum processing, Homeland Security says

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and REBECCA SANTANA
Associated Press

TUCSON, Arizona (AP) — Arrests for illegal border crossings have dropped more than 40% during the three weeks that asylum processing has been suspended, the Homeland Security Department said Wednesday. The announcement comes just one day before President Joe Biden is set to debate former President and presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump in what is expected to be a crucial moment in the election campaign.

Biden is considered especially vulnerable with voters when it comes to immigration. Trump has hammered him repeatedly on border

security by painting a picture of the border as out of control and migrants as a threat to the nation's security and economy. Biden has both sought to crack down on new arrivals at the border and to offer new immigration pathways.

The restrictions he announced at the beginning of June cut off asylum access when arrivals at the border reached a certain number, infuriating immigration advocates who say the policy differs little from what Trump attempted. Then a few weeks later Biden announced a new program aimed at undocumented spouses of American citizens who had been in the country for a decade or more that could

ultimately provide them a pathway to citizenship. The figures announced Wednesday by the Department of Homeland Security show that the Border Patrol's average daily arrests over a seven-day period have fallen below 2,400, down more than 40% from before Biden's proclamation took effect June 5. That's still above the 1,500 mark needed to resume asylum processing, but Homeland Security says it marks the lowest number since Jan. 17, 2021, just before Biden took office.

Last week, Customs and Border Protection said in its monthly release of statistics that border arrests had fallen 25% since Biden's order took effect, indicating they have decreased much

more since then. The monthly data releases are a closely watched metric of border security and how many people are coming to the southern bor-

der of the U.S. The numbers reached a record high last December before falling roughly in half in January and staying in that range throughout the spring. □



Border patrol agent Pete Bidegain looks from a hilltop on the U.S. side of the US-Mexico border in Nogales, Ariz. on Tuesday, June 25, 2024.

Associated Press

Wisconsin youth prison counselor is declared brain-dead after inmate assault

By TODD RICHMOND

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A counselor at Wisconsin's troubled youth prison has been declared brain-dead following a fight with a 16-year-old inmate, the county coroner said Wednesday, less than three weeks after prosecutors filed criminal charges against a warden and multiple staffers in connection with two maximum security inmates' deaths.

Corey Proulx, 49, was declared brain-dead Tuesday so the family could proceed with organ donation, Lincoln County Coroner Valerie Caylor said.

Prosecutors charged the inmate in adult court on Wednesday with second-degree reckless homicide, felony murder-battery and two counts of battery by a prisoner. He could face up to 58 years in prison if convicted on all counts.

Online court records show Lincoln County Circuit Judge Galen Bayne-Allison set a \$100,000 cash bond for him. A call to his attorney, listed in online court records as public defender Jessica Fehrenbach, rang



This Dec. 10, 2015, aerial file photo, shows Lincoln Hills juvenile prison in Irma, Wis.

Associated Press

unanswered on Wednesday afternoon.

The Associated Press is not naming the inmate because his attorneys could try to move the case into juvenile court, where proceedings are secret.

State Rep. Michael Schraa, chair of the Assembly's corrections committee, issued a statement Wednesday questioning whether the

Department of Corrections is operating in "crisis mode." He promised to hold a hearing on the agency's overall operations "as quickly as possible."

"We have a deceased staff member, nine DOC employees facing criminal charges, and four deceased inmates," Schraa said, adding later in the

statement: "Lives need to be protected."

Schraa and Sen. Van Wanggaard, who chairs the Senate judiciary committee, filed an open records request with the Department of Corrections on Wednesday for all documents connected to the fight, including audio and video recordings. Sen. Mary Felzkowski and Rep.

Calvin Callahan, whose districts include the youth prison, joined the request. The records are of "paramount interest" to the communities around the prison as well as the oversight committees, the legislators wrote.

Proulx was injured during a fight Monday night at Lincoln Hills-Copper Lake Schools, the state's youth prison in Irma in northern Wisconsin. According to a criminal complaint, the 16-year-old inmate had been planning to attack a staff member whom he believed was abusing her power and treating him unfairly.

He had another inmate obtain a cup of soap, threw it at the staff member's face and repeatedly punched her before fleeing into an outdoor courtyard.

Proulx approached the inmate, who began punching him without being provoked, according to the complaint. Video surveillance shows the inmate punch Proulx twice in the face using "full force." Proulx went limp, fell and hit his head on the pavement. □

Florida's balloon ban will protect sea turtles, birds and other marine life

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Sea turtles, marine birds and children under 7 will be protected under a new

Florida law that bans the intentional release of balloons.

The law, signed by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis on Monday, replaces an existing ban of releasing ten or more balloons within 24 hours. The Legislature approved the bill with bipartisan support in March and the law is praised by environmentalists.

"Balloons rank among the deadliest ocean plastic for key wildlife and are the deadliest form of plastic debris for seabirds. Florida's new law will help save ocean animals from these preventable deaths," said

Hunter Miller, a Florida representative of the Washington-based environmental group Oceana.

The law will exempt children under 7. Anyone else can be fined for littering for

intentionally releasing a single balloon.

The new law also removes an exemption for biodegradable balloons. DeSantis signed the bill in private and didn't make a state-

ment on it. The bill analysis prepared for lawmakers notes balloon releases are common at weddings, funerals, sporting events, graduations and various celebrations.

Following efforts to limit plastic bags and straws, the push by environmentalists against balloon releases has gained traction. The Florida Legislature has previously barred local governments from banning plastic bags. In 2019, DeSantis vetoed a bill that would have temporarily banned local governments from outlawing plastic straws.

Florida is a large peninsula with no point further than 60 miles (97 kilometers) from the Atlantic Ocean or Gulf



A loggerhead sea turtle hatchling makes its way into the ocean along Haulover Beach in Miami, July 9, 2013.

Associated Press

of Mexico. Balloons can stay afloat for days and winds and currents can carry them far from their initial release point.

Once they deflate and fall, sea turtles confuse them for one of their favorite foods: jellyfish. Birds, manatees, whales and other marine life also eat balloons, which can block their digestive systems, leading to starvation.

"Balloon litter in waterbodies affects more than 260 species worldwide and has been identified as among the five deadliest types of marine debris in terms of the risk that it poses to marine wildlife," said the legislative analysis, adding that animals can also get tangled in balloon strings. □

U.S. ambassador calls China's tech support for Russia during Ukraine invasion a 'major mistake'

Associated Press

SHANGHAI, China (AP) — China's support for Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine through the provision of technology for missiles and other weaponry is a "major mistake," U.S. Ambassador to Beijing Nicholas Burns said Wednesday.

In a speech in the Chinese financial hub of Shanghai, Burns also said Russia's invasion, now in its third year, had become an "existential crisis" in Europe.

"We think it's a major mistake to allow Chinese companies, by the thousands, to be sending so many components, technology components, microprocessors (and) nitrocellulose to Russia to reinforce and strengthen the defense industrial base of the Russian Federation for this brutal war," Burns said.

China "is not neutral, but has effectively sided with Russia in this war," the ambassador said, adding that the decision directly contradicted China's longstanding insistence on "sovereignty and territorial integrity."

China insists it does not provide direct military aid to Russia but has maintained strong trade ties throughout



U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns, center, shakes hands with Wu Xinbo, Professor & Dean, Institute of International Studies, Fudan University as Yuan Ming, Professor, School of International Studies, Peking University, right, looks on as they attend the Barnett-Oksenberg Lecture on Sino-American Relations hosted by Amcham Shanghai, at a hotel in Shanghai, China, Wednesday, June 26, 2024.

the conflict, along with visits between Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

China is also a major purchaser of Russian oil and gas, providing a lifeline for Moscow's war economy that is under international sanctions.

Prior to Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine,

China and Russia signed an agreement vowing a limitless friendship. China has refused to refer to the invasion as such and has blamed NATO for provoking Russian President Vladimir Putin. There was no immediate Chinese reaction to Burns' remarks, which came during a seminar on China-U.S.

relations centered on the life of Henry Kissinger, a career diplomat who died last year. In a recent interview with The Wall Street Journal, Burns also criticized Beijing for undermining people-to-people cultural and educational exchanges by interrogating and intimidating citizens who attend U.S.-organized events

Associated Press

in China, ramping up restrictions on the embassy's social media posts and whipping up anti-American sentiment. His comments drew a rebuke from the Chinese foreign ministry.

"It is the U.S., not China, that has disrupted and prevented cultural and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries," Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said Wednesday. "The U.S. has used national security as a false pretext to harass, interrogate and deport Chinese students arriving in the U.S. Such moves inflicted enormous damage on the persons concerned. They've created a chilling effect."

In Washington, the State Department "absolutely" agreed with "everything the ambassador said" in the interview, spokesman Matthew Miller said.

"It's very hard" to improve people-to-people relations "when the Chinese government harasses either American citizens who are in China or harasses Chinese citizens who participate in ... or attempt to participate in American programs," Miller said. □

Independent U.N. experts accuse Sudan's warring parties of using starvation as weapon

By SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Human rights experts working for the United Nations on Wednesday accused Sudan's warring parties of using starvation as a war weapon, amid mounting warnings about imminent famine in the African nation.

Sudan plunged into chaos in April last year when simmering tensions between the country's military and a notorious paramilitary group, the Rapid Support Forces, exploded into open fighting in the capital, Khartoum and elsewhere in the country.

Fourteen months of fighting have killed more than 14,000 people and wounded 33,000 others, accord-

ing to the United Nations, but rights activists say the toll could be much higher. There were widespread reports of rampant sexual violence and other atrocities that rights groups say amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. The conflict created the world's largest displacement crisis with over 11 million people forced to flee their homes.

"Both the SAF and the RSF are using food as a weapon and starving civilians," the experts said, using initials for the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces. "The extent of hunger and displacement we see in Sudan today is unprecedented and never witnessed before," they

said. Neither the military nor the RSF returned phone calls seeking comment.

The experts warned that famine has become imminent in the country as humanitarian aid has been blocked and harvest season was disrupted because of the war. They added that more than 25 million civilians in Sudan and those who fled the country are being starved and need urgent humanitarian assistance.

A report by Clingendael Institute said last month that around 2.5 million people in Sudan could die from hunger by the end of September, with about 15% of the population in the regions of Darfur and Kordofan being

likely the worst affected. The independent experts said local efforts in response to Sudan's hunger crisis have been hampered by



Sudanese Children suffering from malnutrition are treated at an MSF clinic in Metche Camp, Chad, near the Sudanese border, on April 6, 2024.

Associated Press

unprecedented violence and targeted attacks on civil society and local responders. □

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange returns to Australia a free man after U.S. legal battle ends

By RICK RYCROFT and
ROD MCGUIRK
Associated Press
CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange returned to his homeland Australia aboard a charter jet and raised a celebratory clenched fist as his supporters cheered on Wednesday, hours after pleading guilty to obtaining and publishing U.S. military secrets in a deal with Justice Department prosecutors that concludes a drawn-out legal saga.

Assange told Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in a phone call from the capital Canberra's airport tarmac that Australian government intervention in the U.S. prosecution had saved his life, Assange lawyer Jennifer Robinson said.

Assange embraced his wife Stella Assange and father John Shipton who were waiting on the tarmac, but avoided media at a news conference less than than two hours after he landed. "Julian wanted me to sincerely thank everyone. He wanted to be here. But you have to understand what he's been through. He needs time. He needs to recuperate and this is a process," Stella Assange told reporters.

Assange was accused of receiving and publishing hundreds of thousands of war logs and diplomatic cables that included details of U.S. military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan. His activities drew an outpouring of support from press freedom advocates, who heralded his role in bringing to light military conduct that might otherwise have been concealed from view and warned of a chilling effect on journalists. Among the files published by WikiLeaks was a video of a 2007 Apache helicopter attack by American forces in Baghdad that killed 11 people, including two Reuters journalists. The case came to a surprise end in a most unusual setting with Assange, 52, entering his plea in a U.S. district court in Saipan, the capital of the Northern Mariana Islands. The American commonwealth in the Pacific is relatively close to Assange's native Australia



Wikileaks founder Julian Assange waves after landing at RAAF air base Fairbairn in Canberra, Australia, Wednesday, June 26 2024.

Associated Press

lia and accommodated his desire to avoid entering the continental United States. Albanese said Assange told him during their phone call he was looking forward to playing with his sons, conceived while the father was in self-exile in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London for seven years.

"He described it as a surreal and happy moment, his landing here in our national capital, Canberra," Albanese told reporters in Parliament House. "I had a very warm discussion with him this evening. He was very generous in his praise of the Australian government's efforts."

Robinson said she became "very emotional" when she overheard Assange's conversation with the prime minister. "Julian thanked him and the team and told the prime minister that he had saved his life. And I don't think that that's an exaggeration," Robinson said.

Assange's British court hearings in which he fought extradition to the United States had heard evidence of his failing health and potential risk for self-harm in the U.S. penal system.

Assange was accompanied on the flights by Australian Ambassador to the United States Kevin Rudd and High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Stephen Smith, both of whom played key roles in

negotiating his freedom with London and Washington. The flights were paid for by the "Assange team," Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles said, adding his government played a role in facilitating the transport.

Albanese told Parliament that Assange's freedom, after he spent five years in a British prison fighting extradition to the U.S., was the result of his government's "careful, patient and determined work." It is unclear where Assange will go from Canberra and what his future plans are. His South African-born lawyer wife and mother of his two children, Stella Assange, has been in Australia for days awaiting his release.

Another of Julian Assange's lawyers, Barry Pollack, expected his client would continue vocal campaigning. Assange's father John Shipton said ahead of his son's arrival that he hoped that his first-born child was coming home to the "great beauty of ordinary life."

"He will be able to spend quality time with his wife, Stella, and his two children, be able to walk up and down the beach and feel the sand through his toes in winter, that lovely chill," Shipton said. The plea deal required Assange to admit guilt to a single felony count but also permitted him to return to Australia without any time

but lambasted by national security hawks who insist that his conduct put lives at risks and strayed far beyond the bounds of traditional journalism duties.

Prosecutors alleged that Assange teamed with former Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to obtain the records, including by conspiring to crack a Defense Department computer password, and published them without regard to American national security. Names of human sources who provided information to U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan were among the details exposed, prosecutors have said.

The indictment was unsealed in 2019, but Assange's legal woes long predated the criminal case and continued well past it.

Weeks after the release of the largest document cache in 2010, a Swedish prosecutor issued an arrest warrant for Assange based on one woman's allegation of rape and another's allegation of molestation. Assange has long maintained his innocence, and the investigation was later dropped.

He presented himself in 2012 to the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, where he claimed asylum on the grounds of political persecution, and spent the following seven years in self-exile there, welcoming a parade of celebrity visitors and making periodic appearances from the building's balcony to address supporters. In 2019, his hosts revoked his asylum, allowing British police to arrest him. He remained locked up for the last five years while the Justice Department sought to extradite him, in a process that encountered skepticism from British judges who worried about how Assange would be treated by the U.S.

Ultimately, though, the resolution sparing Assange prison time in the U.S. contradicts years of ominous warnings by Assange and his supporters that the American criminal justice system would expose him to unduly harsh treatment, including potentially the death penalty — something prosecutors never sought. □

Visit the island's popular cave sites!



(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadiriki cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an “off-road” tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadiriki Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadiriki cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri

Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadiriki cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadiriki Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadiriki Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual

ceremonies.

The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

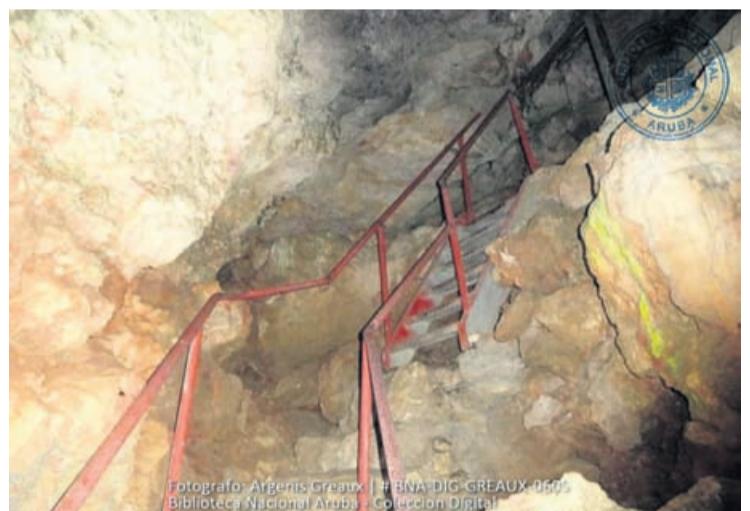
However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Arawak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight! □

Note to visitors:

Due to heavy rainfall in the past few days, Arikok National Park has informed that they have closed the Quadiriki Cave until further notice for the safety of visitors.

Fontein remains open from 9am to 4pm.



Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article Historia di Literatura Arubano: E Bida Cultural (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with



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only one way to generate profit at the time for the subsistence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much

trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piternella, as well as migrant authors José

Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamento,

but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.□

Source: Historia di Literatura Arubano: E Bida Cultural by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



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With less than 30 days to go, six athletes from Aruba are ready to compete in the Paris Olympics

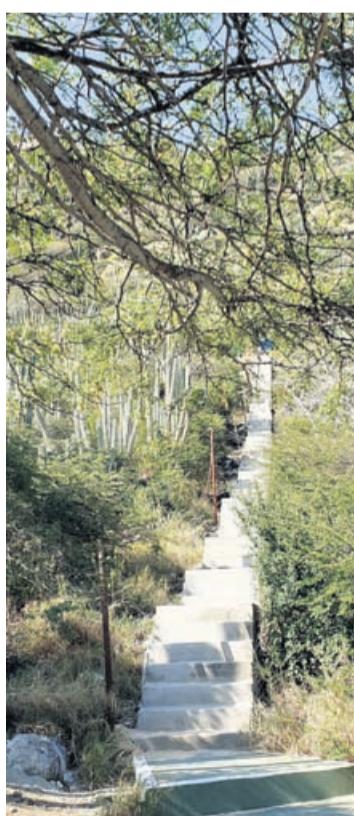
(Oranjestad) – From yesterday, there are only 30 days to go for the biggest sporting event in the world, namely the Summer Olympics, which this year is celebrating its 30th edition in the city of romance, Paris, France.

Around 10,500 athletes from around the world are expected to compete in 329 events in 32 sports, and these include a delegation from Aruba!

Aruba will be participating with six athletes in the Paris Olympics:

Ethan Westera - Sail/Windsurfing Men
 Just van Aanholt - Sail/Single Handed Man
 Mikel Schreuders - Swimming
 Chloe Farro - Swimming
 Shanayah Howell - Cycling/BMX
 Philip Elhage – Shooting

The Summer Olympics will take place in Paris starting on the 26th of July until the 11th of August 2024. Let's go Aruba! □

**Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill**

(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill.

Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the

Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □





For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the casca-

bel are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.

Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color. The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and

Unique fauna of Aruba

lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

Prikichi

(parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

Conew (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigronuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in

a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. For more information, visit <https://www.arubanationalpark.org/main/flora-fauna/> □



Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.

The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves.

The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitchhike, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he

needed a ride real bad, he didn't think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitchhiker braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about



his experience. Everyone grew quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass contributes a lot to our culture of folkloric story-telling.

Source: visitaruba.com

Buoys added to Arashi, Boca Catalina and Eagle Beach



(Oranjestad) – With a focus on the safety of our visitors on the island, the ministry of Tourism together with Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA)

completed a project which saw buoys installed on Arashi, Boca Catalina and Eagle Beach.



According to a press release of the ministry, this is one of several positive projects in ATA's corporate plan to improve Aruba for

our tourists, as well as focusing on respecting local nature and cultural values.

The ministry said that the buoy project ensures more safety for local swimmers as well as visitors enjoying the beach, creating a special area specifically for swimming which is not accessible to jetski, waverunner or any speedboat.

Minister of Tourism, Mr. Danguis Oduber, thanked ATA for making funds available to make this project a reality. This is an investment that will guarantee safety for all those who wish to swim in these areas. □

Dining in? Try making a local favorite How to make "pan bati"

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of all purpose flour
- 1 cup grams of fine cornmeal (we recommend the Harina PAN brand)
- 2 tbsp baking powder
- 1 1/3 cup of milk
- 1 pinch of salt
- 2 tbsp of granulated sugar
- Oil for cooking

Instructions:

Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moisture is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.

In a hot pan with oil, pour in enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried fish or stews. However, it is also casually enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top! □



CROSSWORD

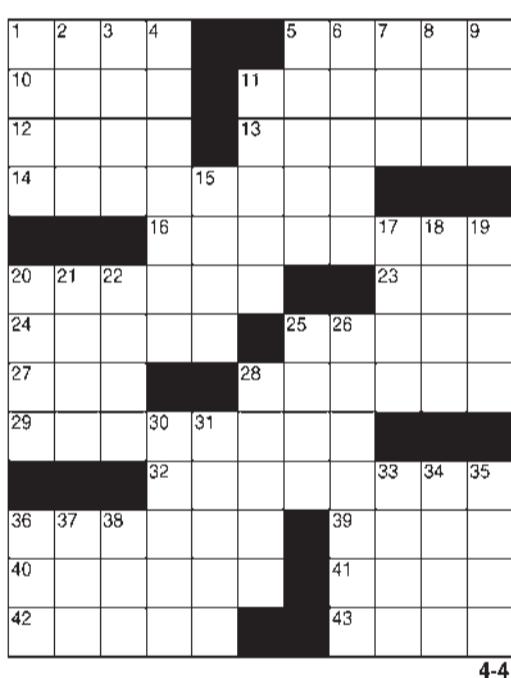
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Stadium event 1 Tooth holders
- 5 Deli fixture 2 Pronto, in memos
- 10 False friend 3 Really large
- 11 Printer's dot 4 Explorer Leif
- 12 Star followers 5 Cashew family tree
- 13 Reformer Bloomer 6 Store worker
- 14 Keyboard part 7 Completely
- 16 Place to buy a bite 8 Island memento
- 20 Like some pools 9 LAX guess
- 23 Lamb's mom 11 Elephant of stories
- 24 Fixes, as a sock 15 Adam's grandson
- 25 Lamb's family 17 Keg contents
- 27 Eggs, to Caesar 18 Blown away
- 28 Emmy and Tony 19 Workout count
- 29 Tart treat 20 Pop star
- 32 TV accessory 21 Basilica part
- 36 Draw out 22 Perfume unit
- 39 Fare carrier 25 Graceful bird
- 40 Sticky situation 26 Convertible alternative
- 41 Metal sources 38 Radio's Glass
- 42 Extra
- 43 Soccer legend



Yesterday's answer



4-4

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONG FELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-4

CRYPTOQUOTE

R O B U D E X F R U O R N M R I G F .

R O B U D E X F R U O , R O R F N W M B ,

X K U Y F X O L F G R O I , R N M R I G F .

— FUE N FUTT X DV

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LOVE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT YOU ARE EXPECTING TO GET — ONLY WITH WHAT YOU ARE EXPECTING TO GIVE — WHICH IS EVERYTHING. — KATHARINE HEPBURN

Cruise ship Schedule: July 01 - July 30 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH
THU	04	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C 1
TUE	09	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	B 1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C 1
WED	10	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C 1
TUE	16	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C 1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I 1
WED	17	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C 1
TUE	23	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C 1
TUE	30	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

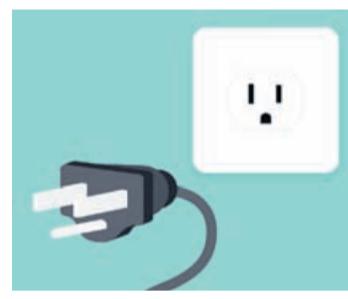
(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Electrical power



Drinking water



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

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Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

Health officials tell U.S. doctors to be alert for dengue as cases ramp up worldwide

By MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. health officials on Tuesday warned doctors to be alert for dengue cases as the tropical disease breaks international records.

The virus, which is spread by mosquitoes, has been surging worldwide, helped by climate change. In barely six months, countries in the Americas have already broken calendar-year records for dengue cases. The World Health Organization declared an emergency in December, and Puerto Rico declared a public health emergency in March.

Dengue remains less common in the continental United States, but in the 50 states so far this year there have been three times more cases than at the same point last year. Most were infections that travelers got abroad, and officials note there is no evidence of a current outbreak. But they also warn that local mosquitoes pose a threat.

In its health alert Tuesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised doctors to know the symptoms, ask questions about where patients recently traveled and consider ordering dengue tests when appropriate.

Dengue (pronounced DEHN'-gay) is caused by a virus spread by a type of warm weather mosquito that is expanding its geographic reach because of climate change, experts say.

Many infected people don't get sick, but some experience headache, fever and flu-like symptoms. Severe cases can involve cause serious bleeding, shock and death.

Repeated infections can be especially dangerous. There are four types of dengue virus, simply known as 1, 2, 3 and 4. When someone is first infected, their body builds antibodies against that type for life. If they get infected with another type of dengue, the antibodies from the first in-



This 2003 photo provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a female Aedes albopictus mosquito acquiring a blood meal from a human host. Dengue, a tropical illness caused by a virus, is spread by Aedes mosquitoes, a type of warm weather insect that is expanding its geographic reach because of climate change, experts say.

Associated Press

fection may fail to neutralize the second type and actually can help the virus enter immune cells and replicate.

That's a concern in Puerto Rico, which for the last two decades has been widely exposed to type 1. Last month, the island reported its first dengue death of the year.

"We're currently seeing increases in the cases due to dengue 2 and dengue 3, for which the population has very little immunity," said Dr. Gabriela Paz-Bailey, the Puerto-Rico-based chief of the CDC's dengue branch.

There is no widely available medicine for treating dengue infections.

Vaccines have been tricky.

U.S. officials in 2021 recommended one vaccine, made by Sanofi Pasteur. The three-dose vaccine is built to protect against all four dengue types and is recommended only for children ages 9 to 16 who have laboratory evidence of an earlier dengue infection and who live in an area like Puerto Rico where dengue is common. Given those restrictions and other issues, it hasn't been widely used. As of late last month, only about 140 children had been vaccinated in Puerto Rico since shots became available there in 2022, and Sanofi Pasteur has told the CDC it is going to stop making the vaccine.

A different vaccine made

by the Tokyo-based pharmaceutical company Takeda is not currently licensed in the U.S. Others are in development. Across the world, more than 6.6 million infections were reported by about 80 countries last year.

In the first four months of this year, 7.9 million cases and 4,000 deaths have been reported, according to the World Health Organization. It's been particularly intense in the Americas, including in Brazil and Peru.

In the United States, the numbers have been far more modest about 3,000 cases last year in U.S. states and territories. But it was the worst in a decade, and included more infections that occurred locally, courtesy of native mosquitoes. Most were in Puerto Rico, but about 180 were in three U.S. states — Florida, Texas and California. □

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The mastermind behind 'CSI' turns the franchise to a new direction with unscripted CBS series

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There have been five "CSI" shows with actors playing forensics experts "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," "CSI: Miami," "CSI: New York," "CSI: Cyber" and "CSI: Vegas." Now it's time for the real experts to bask in the spotlight.

"The Real CSI: Miami," premiering on CBS on Wednesday night, is a documentary-style look at the hunt for real criminals told by the officers and lab-coated pros who actually solved the murders.

"'CSI' has that ability to live in different spectrums," says writer-producer Anthony E. Zuiker, who created the hit franchise. "It made perfect sense to try the unscripted version of the show because the format could still relatively be the same."

The series uses real 911 calls, actor portrayals, surveillance video, interrogation and bodycam footage, crime scene images, cool graphics and re-creations. There are also interviews with survivors and family members to underline the pain of loss.



This image released by CBS Entertainment shows CSI Expert Mary's Martinez on "The Real CSI: Miami," premiering on June 26 on CBS.

Associated Press

"I know what makes 'CSI' work and what does not work. And what does not work is when the episodes are emotionally vacant," says Zuiker. "It's very important to have the survivors and emotionality. That was one of my No. 1 mandates to have." The technicians

and officers explain their thinking on motives and clues and return to key crime scenes. So if a detective went scuba diving for a vital clue, we see him back in the water describing how he found it.

"You have to make sure it still feels like a 'CSI,' but you

also don't have the ability to get extra creative in the writing because you have to stick to the bona fide facts of the case," says Zuiker. "That was the challenge."

One of the first episodes revisits the 2015 gunshot murders of couple Tara Rosado

and Carlos Ortiz in the Florida Keys. Their bodies were found in a bedroom, with signs of a struggle but no gun was recovered. "That tells me there was someone else in the room. And that's when the hunt for the killer began," says investigator Mary's Martinez.

Viewers watch as authorities eye an ex-husband before the discovery of an old gun in a canal leads scuba teams to find a submerged iPhone nearby that reveals the reason for the murders might have been a fight between friends over a bale of cocaine.

Another episode examines the 2018 murder of rapper XXXTentacion, gunned down outside a motorsports store. Authorities investigate whether it was the result of a rap beef or a simple robbery. Smartphone GPS and metadata, surveillance video and the discovery of a live cartridge help finger the suspects. "A lot of what I had to do with the producers of the show was to give them the confidence that the forensics was not boring and that the forensics drove the narrative," Zuiker says. □

Lily Gladstone, Da'Vine Joy Randolph, 485 others invited to join film academy



This combination of photos shows actors, top row from left, Jessica Alba, Ericka Alexander, Obba Babatunde, Stephanie Beatriz, Danielle Brooks and Tia Carrere, second row from left, Jason Clarke, Kate Del Castillo, Gang Dong-won, Lily Gladstone, Sandra Huller and Greta Lee, and bottom row from left, Kate Mara, Catherine O'Hara, Da'Vine Joy Randolph, Fiona Shaw, Koji Yakusho and Teo Yoo, who are among the artists invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Associated Press

By LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

Actors Lily Gladstone, Da'Vine Joy Randolph and Catherine O'Hara and filmmakers Cord Jefferson, Boots Riley and "RRR" director S.S. Rajamouli are among the lucky few who have been invited to join the film academy. In total 487 artists, including actors, directors, costume designers, publicists and executives received invitations this year, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said Tuesday.

Those who accept will be able to vote in the Oscars race. Should all invited in the 2024 class say yes, the academy will have 9,934 voting members and the

makeup would be 35% women, 20% from underrepresented ethnic and racial communities and 20% international.

The invitees include 19 Oscar-winners, like best documentary recipient Mstyslav Chernov ("20 Days in Mariupol") and "Anatomy of a Fall" filmmaker Justine Triet, as well as 71 nominees including Sandra Huller, "The Color Purple's" Danielle Brooks, "Past Lives" filmmaker Celine Song and "Oppenheimer" production designer Ruth De Jong. Jefferson, who wrote and directed "American Fiction," was among eight individuals invited to join multiple branches. In his case, it was directing and writing, and like his peers he'll have

to choose which branch to join. Song and Triet have to make the same decision.

"We are thrilled to welcome this year's class of new members to the academy," said Academy CEO Bill Kramer and Academy President Janet Yang in a statement. "These remarkably talented artists and professionals from around the world have made a significant impact on our film-making community."

Other actors invited include Jessica Alba, Greta Lee and her "Past Lives" co-star Teo Yoo, Tia Carrere and Stephanie Beatriz. Those asked to join the directors branch include Alice Diop, Lila Avilés, Fede Álvarez, A.V. Rockwell, Emma Seligman and David Yates. □

Perez highlights 5-run, 2-out rally in eighth with RBI double as Royals rally to beat Marlins, 5-1

By DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) —

Salvador Perez highlighted a five-run, two-out rally in the eighth inning with a go-ahead double down the left-field line, and the Kansas City Royals went on to beat the Miami Marlins 5-1 on Wednesday to pick up the series win. Angel Zerpa (1-0) got the final two outs of the eighth in relief of Brady Singer, who allowed an RBI single to Vidal Bruján in the second inning but little else on a sunny afternoon at Kauffman Stadium. James McArthur handled the ninth to finish it off.

"Just incredible," Singer said. "For those guys to grind back, that's how we're going to win games."

Indeed, Kansas City had been shut down by Valente Bellozo and the Miami bullpen until the eighth, when Bobby Witt Jr. started the rally with a triple off Huascar Brazoban (0-1). Vinnie Pasquantino followed with a tying single, and after pinch runner Dairon Blanco swiped second, Perez delivered the double that gave Kansas City the lead. Nick Loftin added an RBI single and Freddy Fermin drove



Miami Marlins' Jazz Chisholm Jr. can't beat the throw to Kansas City Royals' Maikel Garcia while trying to steal second base during the first inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, June 26, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo.

in two more runs to provide McArthur some breathing room.

"We had been pretty dead offensively," Royals manager Matt Quatraro said. "Two outs, nobody on, right? Just the quality of what they were swinging at, too. The guys put some really good swings on it."

The outbreak came after Kansas City had scored two runs or fewer in five of its last

seven games.

"Momentum is huge, and that's who we are," Witt said. "It was just a matter of time." Singer allowed five hits and a walk while striking out five, though he again was victimized by poor run support: The Royals have scored two runs or fewer in 12 of his 16 starts, and he has not won since May 19 against Oakland. "The efficiency of him was the most impressive thing," said

Quatraro, whose team had lost four straight series and been 2-7 in series-deciding games this season. "He wanted to keep going. He had it in his mind that he was going to carry us."

Meanwhile, Bellozo was dominant in his big league debut for Miami, pitching five innings of two-hit ball.

The only bit of trouble the 24-year-old from Mexico ran into came in the second in-

ning, and it wasn't entirely his fault: Hunter Renfroe hit a two-out single, then Bruján lost Fermin's popup in the sun and it landed for a double. But Bellozo promptly struck out Garrett Hampson to leave the runners on second and third.

He then retired his final 10 hitters before getting a swarm of high-fives in the Marlins dugout.

"I had a lot of adrenalin, a little nervous, but we controlled the game and did a really good job," Bellozo said. "Play with the zone, attack with the breaking balls and make all my pitches work."

ROSTER MOVES

Marlins: LHP Kent Emanuel was designated for assignment to clear space for Bellozo on the roster. Emanuel had allowed eight runs, seven earned, while appearing in five games this season.

UP NEXT

Marlins: Head to Philadelphia to open a four-game series Thursday night with Trevor Rogers (1-8, 4.90 ERA) on the mound.

Royals: Welcome Cleveland to town Thursday night with RHP Michael Wacha (4-6, 4.07) getting the start. □

Americans favored to top overall medal count in Paris Olympics

By STEPHEN WADE

AP Sports Writer

The United States is strongly favored to win the most overall medals when the Paris Olympics open in a month. The big question is this: will the Americans also top the gold-medal tally in a close race with China? The United States is projected to win 123 medals overall 37 gold, 34 silver, and 52 bronze. China is forecast to win 87 overall 36 gold, 29 silver, and 22 bronze.

This forecast is done by Nielsen's Gracenote Sports, which supplies statistical analysis for sports leagues around the world. It also tracks major competitions involving Olympic sports leading up to the Games. The United States and China finished 1-2 in both categories in 2021 in the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Olympics.

Gracenote's ranking is based on overall medals won, although others focus the rankings on gold totals. The International Olympic Committee does not compile rankings, leaving this to nations and local media. This would be the eighth straight time the United States has won the most overall medals in the Summer Games. In 1992 at Barcelona, the so-called Unified team topped the overall count. Those athletes were from the former Soviet Union, which had just broken up as a sovereign state.

The last time the United States did not top the gold-medal count in the Summer Games was in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, where China invested heavily and saw dividends.

Next in line with overall and gold totals for Paris are: Brit-

ain (62-14), France (56-29), Australia (48-13), Japan (46-12), Italy (46-11), Germany (37-10), Netherlands (34-17), South Korea (29-8). The next 10 are: Hungary (23-7), Canada (20-6), Spain (18-4), Ukraine (17-2), Brazil (16-7), New Zealand (16-4), Poland (15-5), Denmark (14-5), Turkey (14-4), Ethiopia (13-2).

And 21 through 30 are: Sweden (12-6), Georgia (12-3), Serbia (11-5), Belgium (11-3), Uzbekistan (11-3), Kazakhstan (10-2), Iran (9-4), Croatia (9-3), Romania (9-2), Ireland (9-2).

Host nations always get a bump in medals, and France is expected to get a big one and increase its overall total from 33 in Tokyo. France is forecast to nearly triple its gold-medal output from Tokyo, where Japan picked up a record haul.

Performing at home is an advantage, partly because host nations invest more heavily in training athletes. Then, of course, there are adoring home crowds and the familiar surroundings.

The unknown factor is the presence of Russian and to a lesser extent Belarusian athletes. They have been absent from most international competitions over the last two years because of the war in Ukraine. □



An employee holds medals for the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games after the finishing touches were added, in the workshops of La Monnaie de Paris, in Paris Tuesday, June 25, 2024.

Associated Press

Richardson back on track 200, McLaughlin-Levrone in 400 hurdles as Olympic trials enter homestretch

By EDDIE PELLS and PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writers
EUGENE, Ore. (AP) —
Sha'Carri Richardson and Noah Lyles are coming back for Part II. Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone and Gabby Thomas are joining the show.

The second half of U.S. Olympic trials for track and field kick off Thursday, and the final four days at Hayward Field will feature the full complement of America's biggest names in the sport.

Richardson and Lyles will try to earn spots in the 200 meters to go along with the titles they won in the 100 over the first weekend. McLaughlin-Levrone looks to secure a spot in the



Sha'Carri Richardson celebrates her win in the women's 100-meter run final during the U.S. Track and Field Olympic Team Trials Saturday, June 22, 2024, in Eugene, Ore.

Associated Press

400-meter hurdles, the event where she holds the world record and is the reigning Olympic champion. And Thomas tries to nail down a spot in her specialty, the 200 meters, where she won an Olympic bronze medal in Tokyo. If any of them needed a refresher on what's really at stake, all they had to do

was look at the race that closed the curtain on the first half of the action at Hayward Field. Another of America's brightest stars, Athing Mu, went tumbling on the first lap of the 800 meters Monday night, denying her a chance at a repeat of her Olympic title. In the U.S., the top three finishers in each event make the Olympics — provided they have the Olympic qualifying standard in their event — and there are no free passes, even for the best at their craft.

"This is my 12th Olympic Games, my 47th national championship, and this is the hardest team in the world to make," said coach Bobby Kersee, who works with both Mu and

McLaughlin-Levrone. After lowering the world record to 50.68 seconds at world championships in 2022, McLaughlin-Levrone basically took two years off from the 400 hurdles and left the track world wondering if she might move to another event.

Not to be. She rededicated herself to her main event, and if she fails to earn an Olympic spot — or fails to win Sunday's final — it would be as big a surprise as any at this meet. She knows there are no sure things. "Always respect your competitors, but know I can go out there and continue to do what I've been doing," McLaughlin-Levrone said. "So no anxiety. Just continuing to perform to the best of my ability."

Fast company Thomas knows she'll have her work cut out to return to the Olympics.

Among those the neurobiology major from Harvard is set to face are Richardson and Twanisha Terry, the third-place finisher in the 100. Also, there's McKenzie Long, the NCAA 100 and 200 champion from Ole Miss who has the fastest time this season at 21.83 seconds.

Thomas sees this as yet another indication of the strength of the sport on the women's side. It's why, once the Olympics are over, she's on board for an all-women's track meet in September.

"It's a big moment for women's sports. I'm really inspired by that," Thomas recently said. "It's a big moment for women's track and field, too. Soccer and basketball, they're getting so much love right now. But track and field we have such an amazing product, especially the women — we are crushing it. I think we're fun to watch."

Final HurdleHurdler Grant Holloway keeps his Olympic silver medal from Tokyo in a box. And while it does serve as motivation, the medal doesn't necessarily fuel him.□



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